

## Welcome New Members

John Warriner - AC1RP

Want to see your name here?

[Join HCRA Today!](#)

## FIELD DAY EDITION

June 2024

From the editor:

*Field Day is rapidly approaching! Make your plans now to spend at least part of the weekend with your club at the School Street Park in Agawam. Complete details and info can be found on [page 7-8](#). **Your club needs your help!***

*Welcome to our newest member, **John, AC1RP**, from Leverett, MA. When you see John at our next meeting, Field Day, or club event, please say hello to John.*

*Elections are held every June at the meeting. Please attend and have your say by attending and voting at the June meeting's elections. Info below.*

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to Larry, W1AST, without his encouragement I never would have taken a leap of faith to become the Zero Beat Editor!

*This is the last issue before the summer break so see y'all in September!*

73, Ken - KD1KU

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## June 7th Meeting

June has always been an exciting meeting with lots of topics, **elections**, **Field Day prep**, a **guest speaker**, a **raffle** for a **3Ah Bioenno battery** with charger, plus something else is back after a long absence!

The **Ham Mini-Flea Market** is back for this meeting, so bring your unwanted ham related gear to this meeting and put some extra jingle in your pocket. Or bring some cash and score some ham goodies! There will be a table setup at the meeting, which you can check out before and after the meeting. For complete details, see [page 18](#).

There will also be a **raffle** for a **3Ah Bioenno battery and charger** that was a member donation and is brand new. Tickets are **FREE** but are only available to members who are active in portable operating!

The June guest speaker is Marv, W0MET, who will be speaking about the ARRL's education program. This meeting is not to be missed!

**Doors open at 7 pm for coffee, donuts, and some rag chewing.**

Regular club meetings are held at the Holyoke Medical Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA 01040.

**Need directions?** Click <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

# Upcoming Club Meetings and Guest Speakers



The January guest speaker is Marvin Turner, WOMET, who will be talking all about Winter Field Day. Marvin is the WFD president and also a brand new resident of the WMA section of Massachusetts.



Our February meeting's guest speaker is HCRA's very own Gary Thomas, AA1UE. Gary will be speaking about APRS, digital, and modern-day packet. This is sure to be an extremely interesting presentation with so much to offer; don't miss it!



The March guest speaker, Max Kendall, WOMXX will be discussing his recent weather balloon projects. He will be giving us guidance and inspiration so the HCRA can launch our own soon. This great presentation should not be missed!



The annual HCRA Show and Tell is back once again! Enter the projects, kits, or anything you've built and win prizes! Last year's Show and Tell was a massive success! Get those projects, kits or anything you've built completed today.



In keeping with the portable operations from last May, our guest speaker for May is Mindy, KMINDY, in person! Mindy will be discussing everything all about her adventures in the POTA and SOTA worlds. Don't miss this one.



Field Day preparations and more. Volunteers are needed to make Field Day a success. A Ham Mini-Flea Market & guest speaker Marv, WOMET. Plus elections will be held, please consider running for a Board of Directors position!



This meeting is about AREDN™, the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network which is a high speed data network built with Amateur Radio Operators & Emergency Communications Infrastructure in mind. Guest speaker is Orv Beach, W6BI.



The October meeting will feature HCRA member Jeff Bail, NT1K, as this month's guest speaker. Jeff will be talking about everything you always wanted to know about 3D printing and Ham Radio. This meeting is not to be missed.



HCRA's annual auction is back in person at the November meeting! Ham Radio Gear and Related Accessories Only! Absolutely NO computers, monitors, or PC parts! The 2023 auction was a huge hit; don't miss it this year!



The annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant on December 9th. Join us for a night of good food, good friends, and fun to be had by all who attend. Watch for more details on when you can sign up!

## June 2024

*June is finally here!*

**The club has a new Field Day chairman.** Josue, KP4JLD, a member of the HCRA board, has volunteered to run Field Day this year. Josue has some excellent ideas on how to make Field Day a success.

I ask that you put your faith in him and help him make Field Day a success. Volunteers are needed for all aspects of FD. If you can help with trailer towing, setup, cooking, or food as an operator, tear down, please volunteer.

The fun begins at 1:00 pm on Friday, June 21st, at the School Street Park in Agawam. Can you help in any way? Contact Josue at [tipoacrata@gmail.com](mailto:tipoacrata@gmail.com).

**June means it's time for the HCRA elections.** The club needs one volunteer for the treasurer position. Can you balance your checkbook? If you can, you can be the new club treasurer. Do you have some free time? Join the board and contribute. You don't need to be anyone special; every day Joe Ham can hold a position and contribute to the club.

The June meeting also features something new: a **Mini-Ham Flea Market** will be held inside the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room, where a table will be set up for members to sell their ham-related items before and after the meeting. Bring anything ham-related you wish to sell and put some jingle in your pockets! If you've been searching for something, you just might find it at the June meeting.

**Forty miles north of here is the FCARC** (Franklin County Amateur Radio Club). FCARC is sort of a sister club to the HCRA. For years, when someone comes to me looking for public service communication opportunities, I have been sending them to the FCARC.

FCARC has two repeaters and helps with public service on all sorts of public service needs. Since nothing has been going on down our way in quite some time for public service, helping FCARC has worked out well.

Now FCARC is in need of our assistance. They are struggling as a club and are looking for new members to participate in their activities and help them grow and stay alive. Many on the HCRA board are FCARC members, and we urge you to join them to help keep their club going. The dues are just \$15, just like ours. They have a Facebook page and group, monthly meetings, and a newsletter. Please consider joining them and help keep another western MA club alive. <https://www.fcarc.org/membership>

**My position on the board is coming to an end.** For the better part of the last 22 years, I have been a member of the HCRA board. The time has come for me to hand the reins to others and to move on. I will still be active in the club and attend meetings and nets.

I want to thank all the people from past boards that I have worked with. It was your contributions that made me want to stay so long.

I wish to thank all the current board members for helping me keep the club running, creating activities and events, and contributing to make the HCRA a better club at every opportunity.



Continued on page 4

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST

**W1AEZ** is stepping back up as VP. In the past few years, Ez has done amazing jobs with the Field Day Food and the 75th anniversary picnic, contributing in many ways to the board and the club. I value his friendship most of all, and the board will make good use of his contributions.

**KD1KU** spends countless hours each month creating a newsletter that the club can be very proud of. Ken does an amazing job each month and deserves huge amounts of credit for his monthly creation. He is very pro-club, a vocal contributor to the board, and supports it's activities in any way he can. He and I have become good friends, and I value his friendship.

**NF1G** and I have known each other for some 35+ years. Paul has and always is a sound and level board member that can be counted on for those common sense comments that keep us in line. Paul continues on as secretary and always does an excellent job in every way he contributes.

**WA1OJN** and I have been friends for a few years now. Bob continues as technical advisor and is also another pro-club member of the board. He has helped to create some of the clubs kits in the past, and if you need technical help, just reach out to him.

**AA1UE** is another friend I have known for quite some time. Gary has some great ideas and helps the board and club as needed. He, like a number of us on the current board, still works and owns our own business, which can often be like having two jobs as you're always working to improve. But he also contributes so much to the club, and having him on the board makes the board better.

**KC1V** stepped up when a new treasurer was needed and has put in a few years in this position. He is soon stepping down, and a new treasurer is needed. I have known George for many years, and we often go camping, kayaking, and biking with him and his wife.

**KP4JLD** is a newer board member and becomes more active in the club every month. Josue has become more vocal at board meetings, has new ideas, and will be an excellent club member and board member for many years to come. He is also the current Field Day organizer. He's a great guy, and you need to meet him and help the club do Field Day this year.

**N1SR** I have known the longest. Steve used to work with my dad and was instrumental in helping me get on the air and improve my first station back in the late 1970s. Yes, I have known him for 47+ years now. Steve is the current membership director, and he helps fill a very important position by keeping track of membership and recruiting new members.

**W1IRL** and **AB1XW** have been instrumental in keeping the club website up-to-date. It looks so good because of the dedication of these two people. It's not always easy for them when I or others send along an idea for them to implement on the website. Both do an excellent job, and we all value their dedication to the club.

**As I step down from President and the board**, you may ask, "Who is taking over as president?" Alan, **AB1XW**, will be the new club president. We recruited him a few months ago, and he has been attending board meetings, making positive contributions, and running the board meetings for a few months now. Alan has his head on straight and will do an excellent job as president. Please support Alan as he adjusts to the new position after the election at the June meeting.

**What is coming up in August?** It used to be called Boxboro—the New England Convention. A few years ago, it moved to Marlborough, Mass. It is now called the Northeast HamXposition, or HamXpo for short. (<https://hamxposition.org>)

Continued on page 5



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST

I am on three committees to help make the HamXpo better every year. We now have teams in place working on forums. Did you know that the HamXpo has more forums than ALL of the other conventions in this country combined? This year, HamXpo has been expanded to two full days of forums.

Friday will have a **Mini Contest University** run by **K3LR** (of DX Engineering and Contesting Fame), plus a group of forums meant for clubs. Soon, the schedule will be released.

This year, the convention kicks off with a comedian on Thursday night. I've had my tickets for a while now and will be at the show from Thursday afternoon through Sunday afternoon.

Friday night is a DX banquet with a guest speaker and a chance to win a \$500 DX Engineering gift certificate. Saturday is a full day of forums, and the new vendor hall will be open as well. As of right now, Elecraft, Flex Radio, Steppir, and many others will be showcased in the vendor hall. The marketing team has been working since right after last year ended, and we have many new vendors attending. It's safe to say that three to four times as many vendors will be in attendance as compared to last year, as well as many new ones.

Saturday night's banquet has a super special guest speaker in **Dr. Tamitha Skov**, the **Space Weather Woman** (<https://www.spaceweatherwoman.com>). With this year already having an eclipse, aurora, great propagation, you will want to hear what Dr. Skov has to say. She is coming in from California to speak to us.

The door prize for Saturday night is a **Yaesu FT-710 Field HF radio**. You don't want to miss this banquet.

If you plan on attending Friday and/or Saturday night's banquets, make sure to sign up for the "HCRA" table and join us.

Besides forums, vendors, great banquet speakers, and door prizes, there is also the outdoor flea market, which should be enhanced and excellent this year. Plus, on Sunday, the drawing of the door prizes commences. The Grand Prize is an Icom IC-705. There are over \$8000 worth of prizes that will be awarded. (<https://hamxposition.org/prizes>)

*There is so much more going on at this year's HamXposition. You should attend. Attend and support the New England Convention. By doing so, you ensure that the following years will be even better than this year.*

The HamXpo begins Thursday night, August 22nd, and runs through Sunday afternoon, August 25th. I do hope to see you there.

73,

Larry, W1AST  
[hamop.W1AST@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.W1AST@gmail.com)

# 2024 HCRA ELECTIONS



**It's that time of year again, now do your part and VOTE!**

Big things happen during the month of June, with Field Day, the Mini-Ham-Flea Market, and a guest speaker, but one other thing happens during the month of June... It's HCRA election time!

Many Board members are returning, with a few exceptions: George, KC1V, as treasurer, and Larry, W1AST, as president, will both be stepping down this month.

Your club needs someone to volunteer to be the next Treasurer. You can submit your name for any of these positions with any member of the Board of Directors. See [page 32](#) for their contact info.

**Note: you must submit your name to any board member before the June 7th meeting!**

Just because they are staying on for another year doesn't mean they can't be challenged for that position. The final say is up to you, the membership of the HCRA! **Come to the June meeting and VOTE!**

## Board Positions Filled

- **President** - Alan Dove, AB1XW
- **Vice-President** - Ez Morales, W1AEZ
- **Treasurer** - George Collins, KC1V (*stepping down*)
- **Secretary** - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
- **Programs** - Gary Thomas, AA1UE
- **Membership** - Steve Rodowicz, N1SR
- **Technical** - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN
- **At Large** - Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD
- **Zero Beat** - Ken Dion, KD1KU

## Position that Must Be Filled

- **Treasurer** - Vacant



**Elections are held at the June meeting at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room on June 7th at 7:30 pm.**

**Need directions?** <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

**It's your club, do your part by voting!**

**HCRA is better with you involved.**

# 2024 FIELD DAY

## HCRA Field Day at School Street Park, will YOU be there?

Field Day is right around the corner and club members are needed to help with setup, buying and cooking food, drinks, radio operators for CW and SSB and teardown on Sunday as soon as the event ends.

The Field Day event begins on June 22nd at 2 pm on Saturday thru June 23rd at 2 pm on Sunday.

There is lots to do and the more members who volunteer will make the work go a lot faster! Many hands make quick work.

Questions? Contact Josué at email: [tipoarata@gmail.com](mailto:tipoarata@gmail.com)

Fill out this form so we know who's going: [Field Day Form](#)

**Below is a partial list of things that need to be done!**



### Friday, June 21st

- Setup begins at 1 pm at the School Street Park, Agawam, MA. (see map on next page)
- Tow the trailer from storage site to the Field Day site in the park. (behind Band shell)
- Assemble antennas, erect portable tower(s) or wires.
- If you have a camper, tent, or motorhome join us Friday night!

### Saturday, June 22nd

- Complete tower and/or wire antenna set up, assemble station shelters & HF stations.
- Operators are needed for: **SSB, CW, GOTA** Station (get on the air) Need operators for 24 hours of operating, Sign-up when you want to operate by contacting Josué at [tipocrata@gmail.com](mailto:tipocrata@gmail.com)
- Field Day runs for 24hrs beginning at 2 pm Saturday through 2 pm Sunday.
- Join in for the burger picnic. What will you be bringing? Side dish? Dessert?
- Camp in the park on Saturday night & do some late night operating.

### Sunday, June 23rd

- Prepare Sunday morning breakfast.
- Once operating concludes teardown begins. The park MUST be left cleaner than when we arrived!
- Tow trailer back to storage site.

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# 2024 FIELD DAY CONT'D

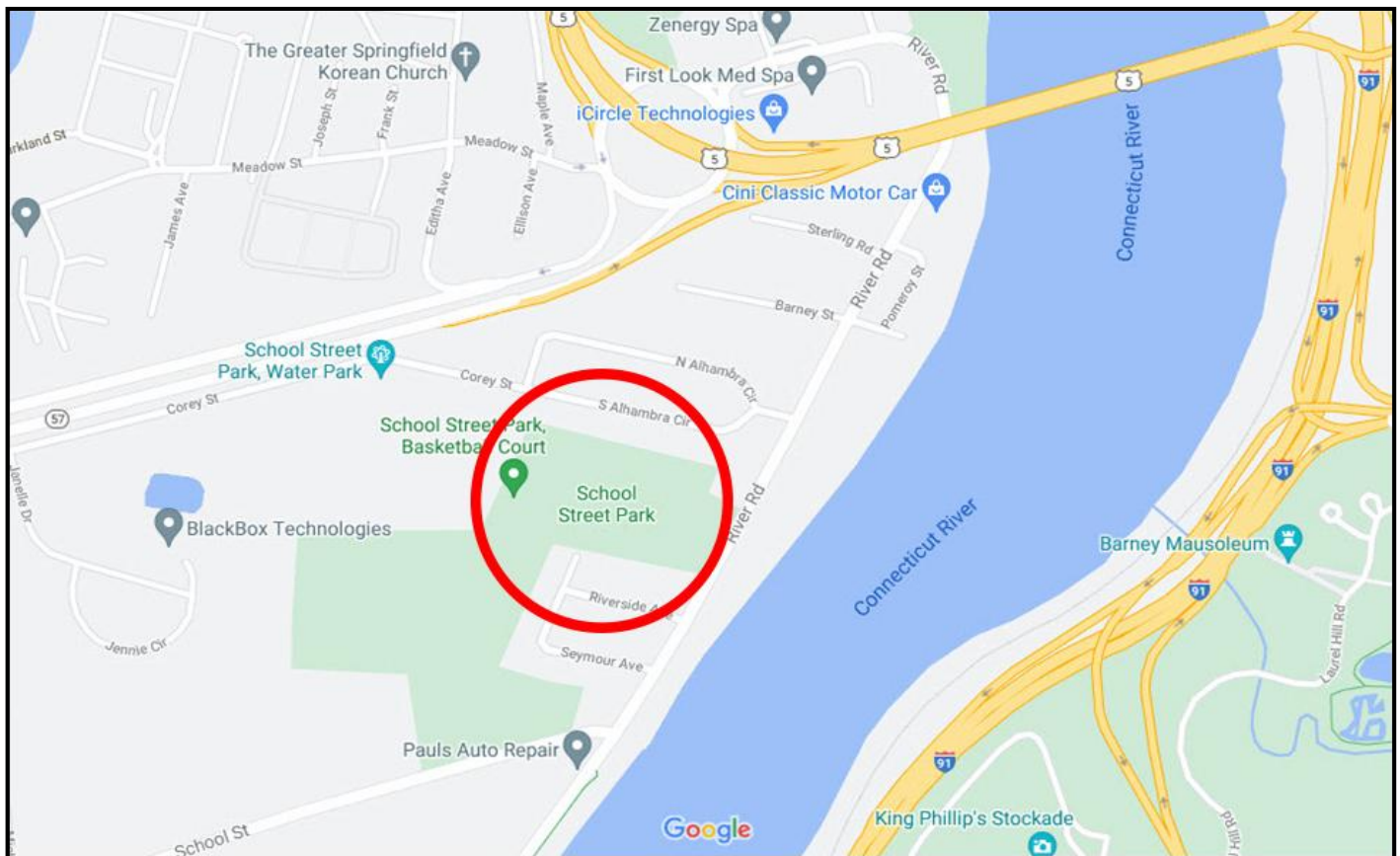
## HCRA Field Day at School Street Park, will YOU be there?

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 2 pm on Saturday running through 2 pm on Sunday afternoon.

Field Day 2024 is held on June 22nd–23rd. This is the club's largest event, but volunteers are a must for it to operate efficiently if not at all. Many people will make quick work of setup and teardown.

### Have some fun with us and volunteer!

Volunteers are needed beginning at **1 pm on Friday, June, 21st.** at the park. The parks location is shown on the map below. To volunteer or ask questions or please email Josué at [tipoacrata@gmail.com](mailto:tipoacrata@gmail.com)



**When:** Friday, June 21st at 1pm (setup) through Sunday the 23rd at 2pm (teardown)

**Where:** School Street Park, Agawam, MA.

**Time Period:** Saturday at 2 pm local to Sunday at 2 pm local

**Club Credit:** Hampden County Radio Association

**To volunteer with setup, operating, or questions, contact Josué at [tipoacrata@gmail.com](mailto:tipoacrata@gmail.com)**

*Club members who will be operating Field Day from home, please be sure to add the Hampden County Radio Association as the club to credit your scores to. Even if you can't be there you can still support your club!*



# Northeast HamXposition

August 22-25, 2024



ARRL New England Division Convention



## BE IN THE KNOW

**The 2024 Northeast HamXposition  
& New England Division Convention**



**The Northeast's largest gathering of radio amateurs, featuring in-person experts presenting on timely topics, trends and technologies**

*Thursday Night Comedy Kick-Off*



Featuring Comedian Juston McKinney  
Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 8 PM

*Friday Night DX/Contest Banquet*



Featuring well-known international  
DXer/Contester, Yuri Onipko, VE3DZ  
Friday, August 23, 2024

*Convention Keynote Address*



Featuring Steve Goodgame, K5ATA  
Saturday Morning, August 24, 2024

*Saturday Grand Banquet Presentation*



Featuring Dr. Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW  
Saturday Evening, August 24, 2024

### Vendors Include:

- ARRL
- Elecraft
- FlexRadio Systems
- Gold Medal Ideas
- SteppIR
- Quicksilver Radio
- Remote Ham Radio
- Halibut Electronics
- Reliance Antennas
- LED Booth Sign
- VE2DX Electronics
- N3ZN Keys

### **Large Outdoor Flea Market**

### Preliminary Talks and Seminars Include:

- Mini Contest University
- AREDN: Another EmComm Tool
- ARRL Forum
- Youth Forum
- Using the tinySA
- Winter Field Day: Embrace the "Chill"
- PSKReporter: Then & Now
- Elecraft K4 Update
- New England QRP Program Track
- Getting on EME
- POTA Program Track
- STEAM and Teacher's Institute
- MARS Forum
- Andy's Ham Radio Linux
- EmComm & Public Service Track,  
incl. EmComm Vehicle Display
- FlexRadio: Not Your Dad's Old Radio
- Choosing the Best Contest Radio
- New England Sci-Tech Kit Building

**Over \$8,000 in prizes**

**August 22-25, 2024 • Marlborough, MA • [www.hamXposition.org](http://www.hamXposition.org)**

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# Northeast HamXposition

August 22-25, 2024



ARRL New England Division Convention

The Northeast HamXposition and New England Division Convention is proud to announce a major addition to its program for 2024.

“Mini-Contest University,” or mini-CTU, based on K3LR’s popular Contest University, has been featured at the Dayton Hamvention since 2007 and has been presented in 15 countries to over 10,000 participants, is a series of contest-oriented talks and presentations offered at HamXposition on Friday. Interested participants may attend free of charge. Registration information and locations will be announced soon.

Watch <https://hamxposition.org> for details.

Door prizes will include gift certificates, courtesy of DX Engineering, and an autographed copy of ARRL’s popular [Amateur Radio Contesting for Beginners](#) book written by Doug Grant, K1DG.

## **The preliminary mini-CTU agenda for Friday, August 23, 2024, is as follows:**

- 8:30 AM Registration
- 9:00 AM Introduction – Doug Grant, K1DG, and Tim Duffy, K3LR
- 9:15 AM Getting started in Contesting – Randy Thompson, K5ZD
- 10:00 AM coffee break
- 10:30 AM Station setup for Contesting – Paul Young, K1XM
- 11:15 PM Antennas for Contesting – Mark Pride, K1RX
- 12:00 PM lunch break
- 1:15 PM Eyeball QSO Party – Doug Grant, K1DG
- 1:30 PM Contest Operating Strategy – John Dorr, K1AR
- 2:15 PM Choosing the best radio for Contesting – Rob Sherwood, NCØB
- 3:00 PM Q & A session – all speakers, “Ask me Anything” format
- 3:30 PM prize drawing

## **Mini-CTU Outline:**

### **Getting Started in Contesting**

Why it is fun

How it helps you become better at ...EmComm, POTA, everything!

How to make a contest QSO

How to submit an entry

Digital contesting

Logging programs

**Continued on page 11**



# Northeast HamXposition

August 22-25, 2024



ARRL New England Division Convention

## Station Setup for Contesting

Focus will be on practical issues for small-lot, small station setup

Ergonomic equipment layout

Computer interface and automation

## Antennas for Contesting

This is the most important equipment in your station!

High band options – beams

Low band options – how to be competitive with simple wires

Feedlines and connectors

## Saturday Grand Banquet Presentation

We're pleased to announce that Dr. Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW, will be the invited guest speaker for the Saturday evening Grand Banquet on 8/24.

Known as “Space Weather Woman” on social media, she forecasts and analyzes space weather processes in the heliosphere and exosphere.

Tamitha is a new kind of weather forecaster for our modern world. As we become more reliant on technology like our cell phones, GPS (GNSS), and other satellite services (and our use of the Amateur Radio bands) we find we are more susceptible to the effects of Space Weather.

Just like terrestrial weather on Earth, Space be as mild as a rainstorm or as wild as a hurricane.

WX6SWW will show you in non-science jargon how this new kind of weather impacts your daily life. You will never look at the Sun or the Earth in the same way again. If

you've never seen or heard of the “Space Weather Woman” check out her latest YouTube video. Her latest video is at: <https://youtu.be/nXia20jA4tI> - Her website is: <https://www.spaceweatherwoman.com>



Featuring Dr. Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW  
on Saturday Evening, August 24, 2024

## Rob Sherwood, NC0B of the Sherwood Reports

The Sherwood Reports online and how Rob Sherwood will be giving **two** talks at the HamXposition. Goto <https://hamxposition.org/> for info on Rob Sherwood and when he will be giving his presentations. Plus you can find more info on Rob, NC0B and his **Receiver Test Data** at: <http://www.sherweng.com/table.html>

# HEATHKIT DIAL UPGRADE

## Dial upgrade for the Heathkit HW-100 by Bill, W1FMX

The Heathkit HW-100 was a very popular H.F. transceiver in the late 1960s. It was marketed as an affordable SSB/CW transceiver that was not too difficult to build, was fun to operate, and worked fairly well.

However, one significant problem with the transceiver (later corrected in the HW-101) was that it had an unusual VFO dial mechanism that tended to make it difficult to “zero-beat” or tune in a station. Here is what was said about that dial on eham.net by Chris Codella, W2PA, in 2002: “It’s a really funky plastic planetary gear arrangement where the knob, which snaps onto the collar, pinches down on a flexible cup-shaped gear that meshes with one in the mount and turns the shaft. It’s fairly flimsy and prone to backlash.” The “back in the day” solution for HW-100’s VFO backlash problem was to purchase a VFO mechanism from Swan and attach that to the HW-100 instead of the original Heathkit mechanism.

Last year, I bought an HW-100 and restored it. Though it has performed well, the “backlash” problem with the VFO dial mechanism really was annoying. I looked around for an old Swan VFO mechanism but did not find one. Searching for another solution, I came across a posting by Ed Mohrman, WA7EM, on Heathkit Groups I.O. that he wrote about 5 years ago. He said that he had added a vernier to his HW-100 and was pleased with the result. So, I wrote to Ed and asked him about the modification he had done. Here is what he said in his reply about the VFO dial on his HW-100:

*The slightest touch of the VFO knob shifted the frequency up or down in random amounts. I quickly learned that a better VFO was a major improvement between the HW100 and HW101. The 101's VFO has a built-in vernier. But the 101's VFO assembly can't be moved to the 100 due to changes in the chassis cut-outs.*

*I wanted any change I made to be "back-out-able." If a future owner of the radio favored the absolute original stock configuration, my modification could be removed with no cosmetic damage.*

*A vernier could be easily clamped to the VFO's shaft. But it stuck out a couple inches beyond the front panel, which I thought was really ugly. So, that began a multi-step campaign to reduce how far it stuck out. The major steps were to cut the vernier shaft, maybe 1", and to use a Dremel tool to hollow out the back side of the knob so that most of the vernier body was hidden inside the knob. I had to drill and tap a new set screw hole to attach the knob to the shaft. I also made a little collar out of PVC pipe to hide the rest of the vernier. The collar was maybe 3/4" and painted green to match the cabinet. After all that, I think the radio looked pretty good—almost stock!*

*After that, tuning was very smooth and stable. The negative was that tuning was in the backward direction. Because of the vernier gearing, to tune the VFO clockwise, you turned the knob counter-clockwise.*

Unfortunately, there were no photos available to show how he had modified the HW-100, but included in that reply from WA7EM was information about the knob and the vernier he had used for his HW-100. Both parts are still available from MGS Max-Gain Systems, Inc. The 6:1 vernier Reduction Drive lists for \$14.95 (Part # SKU: VERN-01), and the fluted tuning knob (Part # SKU: MGS-KNOB-02) is priced at \$5.95

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# HEATHKIT DIAL UPGRADE

CONT'D

## Dial upgrade for the Heathkit HW-100 by Bill, W1FMX

Photos of the knob and the vernier appear below in photos #1 and #2. The link for the MGS webpage to purchase them is: <https://mgs4u.com/?msclid=77c3098a4c48117ef7656fa6511a5327>.

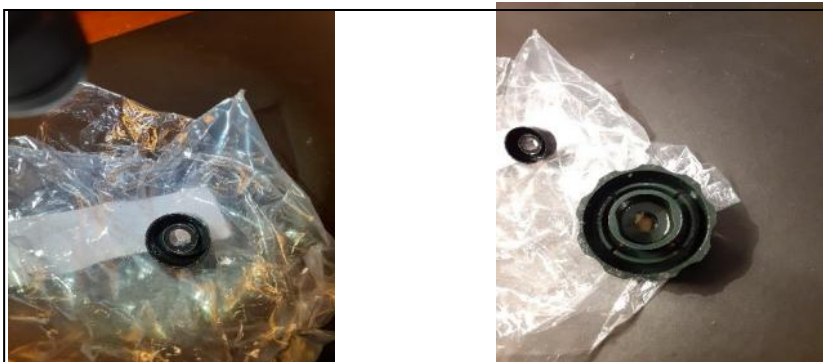
When the vernier and the knob arrived, I began to consider how I might attach them to the HW-100. After removing the dial knob from the HW-100 (this is easy to do: simply use a slotted head screwdriver and pry the knob off), I realized that it would also be useful to remove the “cup-shaped gear” that is placed on the VFO capacitor’s shaft. To remove the “cup gear,” I used a dental pick that is shaped like an “L,” which allowed me to hook the end under the inside lip of the “cup gear” and pull it free. The result was that, when the vernier was placed on the VFO shaft, it could be set slightly further onto it. (Note: the original Heathkit gear system will be somewhat greasy.)

With the VFO variable capacitor shaft freed of the original components, I fitted the vernier onto the shaft. It was immediately apparent that the shaft of the vernier would need to be cut down. WA7EM had mentioned that he had removed about 1” from the vernier’s shaft. I measured and removed about that same amount using a hacksaw. The remaining “stub” of the vernier shaft was now about 5/16” long, which eventually would be long enough to be compressed by the setscrew on the new knob I would use.

The vernier has mounting tabs on either side (see image below). In order to make the vernier fit as deeply into the opening for the HW-100’s VFO variable capacitor shaft, I decided to bend the tabs down.



Photos # 1 and 2: 6:1 Vernier and Fluted knob.  
(Photo Credit: MGS Max-Gain Systems, Inc.)



Photos# 3 and 4, HW-100 VFO Dial and “Cup Gear”  
(Photo Credits: B. Cook)



Photos 5 and 6, Mounting Tabs on Vernier Dial and VFO  
Shaft and Opening (Photo Credit: Cook)

Continued on page 14

# HEATHKIT DIAL UPGRADE CONT'D

## Dial upgrade for the Heathkit HW-100 by Bill, W1FMX

The vernier attached easily to the VFO variable capacitor's shaft using two setscrews. But the next step was to decide how to "anchor" the vernier so it would work properly and yet not damage the HW-100. Ordinarily, two screws would anchor the vernier, but that could not be done here without drilling holes into the plastic structure of the HW-100. The solution seemed to be to attach supports to the sides of the vernier and somehow attach the other ends of those supports to the HW-100 without damaging it. The "supports" that I decided to use were actually pieces cut from a "folder fastener"—the kind that is bendable and used to hold papers in a file folder. (See image below.) The "bendable pieces" are very strong against a lateral force. I cut the two bendable pieces from the more solid base of the fastener and then cut each of those pieces in half, cleaned the ends, added some flux, and soldered the ends to the bent tabs on the vernier (which I also had pre-cleaned and pre-tinned with solder). Once soldered on, the pieces held in place well and seemed strong enough to anchor the vernier.

Next, the vernier was placed on the VFO variable capacitor shaft, and I trimmed each of the supports and bent them in so that the ends abutted the silver ring under the HW-100's dial and made sure that each of the ends was also up against two of the four screws that hold the original silver ring in place. Finally, I added a small dab of Super Glue to "tack" each of the two "supports" to the plastic surface. (Photo #8 below).



Photo #7: Bendable Folder Fastener  
(Photo Credit: B.Cook)



Photo #8: Vernier attached to VFO Variable Capacitor Shaft and Anchored in Place. (Photo Credit: B.Cook)

The next task was to add the knob to the vernier. However, in order to decrease the distance that the knob would extend from the front of the vernier dial, I followed WA7EM's idea of carving away some of the backing of the dial so it would fit more closely over the end of the vernier. Using a Dremel tool with a carbide bit, I removed enough of the plastic in the center of the back of the knob to create a "niche" for the end of the vernier. I also used a 1/2" drill bit to remove about 1/4" of the knob's inner brass sleeve for holding the knob on

the vernier shaft. The photo on the left (next page) shows the original back of the knob, while the second photo (next page) shows it with the "carved-out" back.

Continued on page 15

# HEATHKIT DIAL UPGRADE CONT'D

## Dial upgrade for the Heathkit HW-100 by Bill, WIFMX



Photos # 9-11: Original Knob, Carved Back and Dremel with Carbide Bit (Photo Credit: B.Cook)

When the back of the knob was carved and the brass sleeve drilled down slightly, the original set screw in the knob could still be used to attach the knob to the shaft of the vernier. However, one problem remained: there was a gap between the knob and the front of the HW-100 that needed to be covered to make the installation look more professional. After several solutions were tried, it seemed to be that the best “fix” was to use a 1 ½” ABS Black Spigot and Hub Flush Bushing (Charlotte brand Part # 107 10 2x1 ½” ABS 31-8329 DWV), which cost \$3.29 at the local hardware store (photos #12-13 below). Using epoxy, I cemented the side with a lip to the back of the knob; this gives a “finished” appearance to the knob and covers the gap between the front of the HW-100 and the back of the knob. Aside from its “cosmetic” purpose, a bonus is that the bushing can be used to move the vernier more quickly than simply turning the knob does.



Photos #12-13: Dial Cemented to Bushing and Flush Bushing. (Photo Credit: B.Cook)

Continued on page 16



# HEATHKIT DIAL UPGRADE

CONT'D

## Dial upgrade for the Heathkit HW-100 by Bill, W1FMX

Adding the 6:1 Vernier and the new knob does change the appearance of the HW-100 slightly, but the improvement in performance is well worth the difference. Using the bushing to turn the vernier, I can move “up and down” a band quickly, but then can easily “zero beat” a station using the new knob for more precise tuning. Frankly, it was surprising to me that the new set-up actually looks better than I expected - carving out the back of the knob allows the whole apparatus to be set closer to the front panel which improves the appearance of the new dial mechanism. And, of course, if the change is made and you do not like it, reverting back to the original dial mechanism is easy to do.



Photos #12-13: Dial Cemented to Bushing and Flush Bushing.  
(Photo Credit: B.Cook)

73, Bill - W1FMX



# THANK YOU LARRY, W1AST

**After spending 22+ years on the HCRA Board the time has come**

The HCRA June meeting consists of elections and Field Day prep, but it's also the "Changing of the Guard," so to speak, which is the case of outgoing club President Larry Krainson, W1AST.

For those of you who may not know exactly what Larry has accomplished over nearly two decades, First, a quick look at Larry's ham radio career, which began when he was a mere 14 year old in the 8th grade.

A good friend and his father got Larry interested in amateur radio when he got his Novice class ticket at the FCC office in Boston, Massachusetts.

Approximately two years after earning his Novice ticket, he studied daily and earned his General Class upgrade! Remember, back then, CW was a requirement to pass any license or upgrade? Larry still uses CW daily in his shack!

Roughly two years later, after graduating high school and before college began, Larry upgraded to an Advance Class license, also passing his 20 wpm code credit but missing his Extra Class written exam by one question!

Fast forward to approximately September of 2001, Larry took his first seat on the Board of Directors, with that position being the At Large BOD position! This began his long journey on the Board of Directors! When I say long journey, I mean he has been on the HCRA Board for just over 22 years now!



In 2023, Larry led the club into its **75th Anniversary Celebration** and is shown holding the plaque! (above)

Larry has dedicated his life within the ham radio hobby to far more than the HCRA.

Besides, **President** Larry has held the following board positions: **Vice President, Programming Director, At Large**, and, not to forget, **Zero Beat Editor**!

On top of all of his HCRA accomplishments he also has done much for the ham radio community over all.

Larry is a lifetime member of the **ARRL**, a proud member of the **FCARC**, and the **YCCC**. He is also a member of **ECARS** on 7.255 LSB. He is also the **13 Colonies, Team K2H, Massachusetts State Manager**. On top of this, he was the driving force behind the **Big-E Project** for two years!

Larry is also the **ARRL WMA Affiliated Club Coordinator**, plus he is a **Northeast HamXposition Committee Member** and is on three committees at **HamExpo** alone!

I'm sure I have missed something, and I apologize for that. By no means is Larry the first president to be this active, nor will he be the last, but he really has done an incredible amount for the hobby itself!

A special thank you goes out to Faye for all of her support and help with all of Larry's endeavors!

**Please take a minute to drop Larry an email saying THANK YOU at [hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com)**

# NUTS AND VOLTS

## ARRL & HCRA News, Odds & Ends, Plus Other News Worthy Items!

### Volunteers Needed for Field Day

Josué, KP4JLD, is the 2024 Field Day chairman, along with help from Alan, AB1XW. The 2024 Field Day dates are Friday, June 21st thru Sunday, 23rd. Friday is setup day and the actual contest runs from Saturday at 2pm thru Sunday at 2pm. Help is needed for all aspects of Field Day. Josué needs volunteers to help with set-up, tear down, radio operators, to purchase and cook plus drinks and everything in between!

**Can YOU help?** To Volunteer contact Josué, KP4JLD, at [tipoacrata@gmail.com](mailto:tipoacrata@gmail.com)

### ARRL LoTW Service Disruption

The ARRL is continuing to address a serious incident involving access to our network and systems. Several services, such as Logbook of The World® and the ARRL Learning Center, are affected. We have heard from many LoTW® users, asking about the status of the service and its data. This is not an LoTW server issue, and LoTW data is secure. Some members have asked whether their personal information has been compromised in some way. ARRL does not store credit card information anywhere on our systems, and we do not collect social security numbers. Our member database only contains publicly available information like name and call sign, along with ARRL-specific data like email preferences and membership dates.

### Bioenno Battery & Charger Raffle

**The HCRA June 7th regular meeting** will feature a FREE raffle for a 3Ah Bioenno battery with charger. This brand new battery was donated by a club member. Can YOU put this battery to good use?

To be eligible for this raffle, you must attend the meeting and be active in portable operating, whether it's POTA, SOTA, or any version of portable operating. Portable op's are hot right now, as it's nearly impossible to spin the VFO without hearing several POTA/SOTA activators across the US and further!

### Ed Libera, WT1W [SK]

Long time local ham, former HCRA member, Ed Libera, WT1W, sadly become a silent key recently. Ed was very well known in the amateur radio community and he never met a fellow ham that wasn't his friend. God Speed my friend, WT1W

*The first time I joined HCRA in the 1990s I met Ed and we quickly became friends. [Ken, KD1KU]*

*Always a fun time at the Hosstrader's hamfest in Deerfield, NH with him. He will be missed. [Jim, KK1W]*

**Western Massachusetts Section News:** <https://wma.arrl.org>

**ARRL New England Division:** <https://nediv.arrl.org>

**ARRL Western Massachusetts Section Manager** - Raymond P. Lajoie, AA1SE - [aa1se@arrl.org](mailto:aa1se@arrl.org)

**To learn more about an ARRL membership, and how it can help you** - <http://www.arrl.org/membership>

# WANTED - BOD POSITION

One Board of Directors Position **MUST** to Filled!

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## WANTED

The HCRA needs ONE member to volunteer too become a major part of your club's future! Take an active part in the future of your club by filling this last seat on the Board of Directors. The position below needs to be filled by the next physical year (September).

Everyone has great ideas, and those ideas can benefit your club. Your club needs your help! Volunteer and try it, you might be surprised by how much you enjoy being on the board.

If you have questions about what the treasurer's position involves please checkout the following link to the HCRA by-laws here: <https://hcra.org/by-laws/>

***The following position on the Board of Directors must be filled:***

- **Treasurer**

***If you need more info or if you would like to volunteer for this position on the board please contact any Board of Directors member. All contact information is on [page 32](#) of this issue.***

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### Letter to the Board of Directors

*Hello HCRA Board Of Directors.*

*I received a gift card for Home Depot the other day from participating in the Show and Tell. Just want to say thank you. It's been put to good use. Thanks for stepping up and serving on the board. It benefits the amateur radio community in not only Hampden County but most of Western Mass.*

*Thanks again, Jeff (NT1K)*

*Also, Larry received a verbal thank you from Howard, AC1MN and Al, N1AW*

# STORMS AND TORNADOES

## Storms and Tornadoes: Amateur Radio Ready

Strong storms and reports of at least 60 tornadoes have wreaked havoc in the Central U.S. for nearly two weeks. Homes and businesses across Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Iowa were destroyed, and power is still down for more than 30,000 residents. On May 1, 2024, President Joe Biden declared a major disaster exists in Oklahoma, making federal aid available to those affected by last weekend's severe storms in Hughes, Love, and Murray counties.

Section Manager of the ARRL Iowa Section, Lelia Garner, WA0UIG, re-

ported that in Iowa, they have moved from response to recovery. Currently, nine counties are under the Iowa State Individual Assistance Grant Program and the Disaster Case Advocacy Program.



One of the several tornadoes in Iowa in early May 2024 [NOAA photo]

"Amateur Radio has served our local agencies well. We recently networked at a central Iowa hamfest and are building our emergency communications capacity primarily through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®). ARES resources include personnel, experience, meetings, training, communications equipment, and operating trailers. The opportunity to share our experience and knowledge gained in the field has been critical to supporting ARES in Iowa," said Garner.

Garner added that awareness is the best tool. She stressed that amateur operators and ARES members work to help the National Weather Service and other served agencies in order to make their work and the community safer.

ARRL Emergency Management Director Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, agrees that everyone should stay vigilant in their awareness and preparations, even during periods of less activity. Make sure you are prepared at home and that your family has a severe weather plan. This is extremely important if you plan to be mobile or away from your home during a severe weather event. Your safety is the most important thing if you plan to be active during severe weather. Every ham who is interested in severe weather should take the [SKYWARN storm spotting class](#) offered by the National Weather Service," said Johnston.

He added that some of the most important aspects of preparation are communication and building relationships. These activities, including drills and exercises, need to be done during blue - sky days to ensure you will be ready during days with severe weather.

The [ARRL Learning Center](#) offers courses like on Basic EmComm and Intro to Radio for Emergencies and Disasters.



# 13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT

One of the most exciting and fun Special Events of the year!

The US Original 13 Colonies Amateur Radio Society Presents The 16th Annual:

## 13 Colonies Special Event = 2024

July 1st - 7th

Citizen Soldiers - State Militias - Minute Men



K2A\*



K2B\*



K2C\*



K2D\*



K2E\*



K2F\*



K2G\*



\*K2H



\*K2I



\*K2J



\*K2K



\*K2L



\*K2M



In Recognition for Participation in This 4th Of July Week 13 Colonies Special Event, This Certificate is Awarded TO Amateur Radio Station:



GB13COL

\*KU2US\*



TM13COL

CONTACTS

13

CLEAN SWEEP

2024 Event Dates / July 1 (9AM Eastern) to July 7 (Midnight Eastern)

(July 1, 2024-1300 UTC to July 8, 2024-0400 UTC)

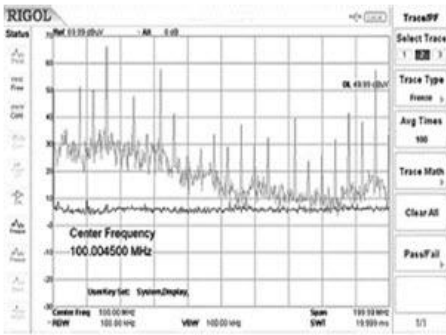
YOU DO NOT NEED ALL 13 COLONIES TO GET THE CERTIFICATE

YOU DO NOT NEED TO GET THE 2 BONUS STATIONS FOR A CLEAN SWEEP

Website - <http://www.13colonies.us/>

Bands and Modes - <http://www.13colonies.us/bands>

K2H - Massachusetts state manager for, 13 Colonies - [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)



# Need Help With RF Interference Issues ?

If you have been experiencing RF interference there is a WMA resource available that's ready to assist you. Each section has established an RF interference investigative team that can help identify and possibly remedy your problem.

To initiate your request for help you can simply send an E-mail to [k1yo@arrl.net](mailto:k1yo@arrl.net) with your contact information and a description of the problem and anything you may have already tried.

A member of the WMA RFI team will contact you with directions on how to initiate the formal request for assistance. This then may require several steps / tasks on your part which provide us with essential information to guide further investigative processes.

Additionally, helpful information can be found on our [RFI Troubleshooting Guide](https://nediv.arrl.org/rfi-troubleshooting-guide/) online at:  
<https://nediv.arrl.org/rfi-troubleshooting-guide/>

**We are ready to help - just give us a call !!**

Vy 73,  
Your WMA RFI Team

Greg WA1JXR   Barry W1HFN   Najm AB1ZA  
Bob K1YO (Team Lead)

# ZERO BEAT CLASSIFIEDS

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

**FOR SALE!**

## Ameritron ALS-600 HF Amplifier & Matching Power Supply

Ameritron ALS-600 HF Amplifier and Matching Ameritron ALS-600PS Power Supply. \$1500 or best offer.

No tuning, no warm-up. Output power is 600 watts PEP, 500 watts CW. Includes continuous coverage from 160m thru 20m. SWR protection prevents amplifier damage if you switch to the wrong band, use the wrong antenna, or have a high SWR. Plus more.

Separate ALS-600PS power supply can be conveniently placed out of the way and plugged into your nearest 120-volt outlet. No special wiring is needed. Remote capability and setup. Asking \$1500. about 42lb for shipping, so I will ask for half of the shipping cost. It won't be cheap. I am located in Western Mass.  
Cash, Venmo, or Paypal. Contact Marvin, W0MET, at [mhturner14@icloud.com](mailto:mhturner14@icloud.com)



Continued on page 24



## Tower, Rotor and Yagi for Sale in Chicopee, MA. by Pete, KC1RY



Complete crank up tower assy with tribander yagi, rotator, all located in Chicopee, MA. Being sold by Pete Kandilakis, KC1RY. Asking \$500

For complete details about tower, tribander and rotator contact Pete at [pkrypto@ymail.com](mailto:pkrypto@ymail.com)



Continued on page 25





Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

## Radios For Sale - Dave, WM1B, in East Longmeadow, MA.

- **Kenwood HF/MHZ TS-590 All Mode 100 w Transceiver - \$500**
- **ICOM IC-208 VHF/UHF FM Transceiver - \$150**
- **Realistic 10-meter SSB/CW Transceiver Model HTX-100 - \$75**

Interested? Questions? Contact: Dave Fant, WM1B at info below

Email - [dfant19508@aol.com](mailto:dfant19508@aol.com)

Phone - 484-529-0090 (cell) or 413-525-3022

## Zero Beat Classified Submissions

If club members have something that you would like to sell, trade or even anything that you have been searching for you can list it right here in the Zero Beat Classifieds section!

To submit anything in the classifieds simply send an email to [kd1ku@arrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrl.net) with a few photos of the item(s) for sale or wanted and include a brief description including a way to contact you (phone number or email) and an asking price as well. -[Editor]-

# SPECIAL SERVICES CLUB

Our Status is Renewed as a Special Services Club



## What is a Special Service Club?

A club that exists to go above and beyond for their communities and for Amateur Radio is what defines a Special Service Club (SSC). They are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursue technical projects and operating activities.

## Special Service Club (SSC)

Exceptional clubs who qualify for Special Service Club status receive the following additional benefits:

- Special recognition in QST as they renew or become SSCs
- Eligibility to appoint local Awards Managers
- New ham development and training & public relations
- Emergency communications & school club support
- Technical advancement & annual reports

***HCRA's status as a Special Service Club lasts for 2 years and can be renewed by the Affiliated Club Coordinator.***





**Clublog update:** Clublog can be accessed at <https://clublog.org/league.php> Signup is free, and there are a number of ways to lookup information. Give it a try, who knows... you just might like it!

This is the latest HCRA Clublog for 2024 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy this year!

*HCRA Clublog information last updated on May 30th 2024*



<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Mode Filter	<input type="radio"/> CW	<input type="radio"/> Phone	<input type="radio"/> Data
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rank by DXCCs	<input type="radio"/> Rank by slots	Rank by band: Totals ▼	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 160M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 80M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6M			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Current entities	<input type="radio"/> Current and deleted	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Worked	<input type="radio"/> Confirmed
<input type="radio"/> No Date Filter	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2024	<input type="radio"/> 2023	<input type="radio"/> Last 12 months

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	3	36	0	114	31	138	34	150	48	160	3	232	717	61 yrs
2	KX1X	3	71	0	114	106	132	109	158	135	155	1	216	984	27 yrs
3	NF1G	15	7	0	24	52	95	42	126	89	135	1	212	586	40 yrs
4	W1PY+1	0	45	0	87	0	127	1	143	1	147	0	180	551	14 yrs
5	KK1W+1	14	49	0	65	9	67	18	57	16	78	3	159	376	48 yrs
6	K1NZ+2 ★	3	18	14	37	84	51	66	90	78	80	1	152	522	13 yrs
7	NE1C	23	29	0	60	21	78	0	112	0	96	0	128	419	22 yrs
8	N1FTP	0	3	0	23	8	60	8	64	20	95	1	114	282	16 yrs
9	W1AST+1	1	5	0	25	9	55	25	35	8	35	1	105	199	15 yrs
10	K1VOI	6	14	0	27	30	24	3	10	9	14	0	64	137	23 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	NT1K+2	0	3	0	5	3	43	1	18	0	20	0	62	93	14 yrs
12	W1JA+1 ★	0	5	0	3	16	2	8	10	33	4	1	60	82	55 yrs
13	WY1G	1	1	0	12	0	16	3	11	12	12	0	44	68	43 yrs
14	KD1KU	0	0	0	5	0	18	1	6	0	15	0	36	45	6 yrs
15	N1JIE	1	1	0	3	1	6	2	4	1	5	1	14	25	7 yrs
16	WD1S	0	1	0	6	0	6	0	7	0	4	0	14	24	12 yrs
17	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	3	5	12 yrs

If you have never used Clublog, need a refresher, or simply have the desire to learn as much as possible about Clublog or most anything else, go to the [HCRA YouTube Channel](#) and learn. All meetings are recorded and posted on [hcr.org](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qj2lKcQRNbE&t=1s) plus video links are listed in Zero Beat. The link to the April 2021 meeting where Clublog was the topic of our guest speaker is listed below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qj2lKcQRNbE&t=1s>




# ARRL CLUB COMMISSION PROGRAM

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership through the HCRA!

The HCRA now earns a **\$20 commission** for each **NEW** ARRL member we recruit and **\$5** for each **renewing member**. Download the form, fill it out completely including payment, and mail it to **Hampden County Radio Association, P.O. Box 562, Agawam, MA. 01001**

Be sure to send it to the HCRA P.O. Box above and **NOT** directly to the ARRL

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Membership/Club%20Commission/ARRL%20Membership%20Application%20CLUB%20rev%20Jan%202024.pdf>

**ARRL**  
The National Association for  
Amateur Radio®

**Membership Application**

☐ New    ☐ Renew    ☐ Previous Member    ☐ Unlicensed

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (\$12 per member)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please note my new address    ☐ I do not want my name and address made available for non-ARRL related mailings

**Your Annual Membership Dues\***  
Circle Your Choice (rates effective Jan. 1, 2024)

	1 Year	3 Years
Standard membership	\$59	\$174
Family (same membership exp. date and address)	\$12	\$36
Student (must be under age 26)	\$30	
Blind (requires one-time statement of legal blindness)	\$12	\$36

**Add-on ARRL Subscriptions**

**QST**, ARRL's membership journal for active radio amateurs.  
☐ 1 Year \$25\*    ☐ 3 Years \$75\*

**On the Air**, For beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs.  
☐ 1 Year \$25\*    ☐ 3 Years \$75\*

**Member Benefits**

Your membership supports benefits, services, and programs that keep you active and on the air.

**Membership Includes:**

- Access to four digital magazines and archives (*QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, & *NCJ*)
- Unlimited courses through the ARRL Learning Center ([learn.arrl.org](http://learn.arrl.org))
- Logbook of The World®, contests, and award programs

...and more!

\*A print subscription for *QST* and/or *On the Air* requires an ARRL membership. Dues and subscription rates are subject to change without notice and are non-refundable

**Payment Information**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Charge to:    ☐ Visa    ☐ MasterCard    ☐ AmEx    ☐ Discover    ☐ Check Enclosed

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Toll Free (US) 1-888-277-5289 or 860-594-0200 • ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1400  
[membership@arrl.org](mailto:membership@arrl.org) • [www.arrl.org/join](http://www.arrl.org/join)

# DOTS & DASHES

THINGS THAT DON'T FIT ANYPLACE ELSE!

## Groups.io & hcra.org

The groups.io registration tutorial can be found on the HCRA website as a pdf “how to” file. With over 92 registered members most are ready to go. Any future members that wish to join groups.io can click on the link below or simply go to <https://hcra.org/> and look for a link under **Membership Information**. One last note, everyone is in moderated status until you make your first post.

Get started by clicking on the following link: <https://groups.io/g/hcra>

## 10 Meter Net Summer Break

The HCRA 10-meter net will continue throughout most of June until the 17th, which will be the last net before the annual summer break. Our fun nets will continue, but on a limited schedule.

The 10-meter net will be held once per month during July and August on the dates listed below. The July net will be held on 7/15, while the August net will be held on 8/12. Summer nets will remain at a starting time of 7 pm local. The regular net schedule will resume on September 2nd, 2024.

## Contests and Special Event Stations

ARRL Contest Search - <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

June VHF Contest | Begins June 8th, at 1800z, Saturday, ending at 0259z Monday, June 10th

For complete information and rules visit: <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

2024 Field Day | June 22nd, at 1800z to June 23rd at 2059z | 160m - 10m + 6m and up

For complete rules and information: <https://www.arrl.org/field-day> or [fdinfo@arrl.org](mailto:fdinfo@arrl.org) or (860) 594-0232

Special Event Station Search - <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

13 Colonies SES | July 1st at 1300z - 7th at 0400z | 160m-6m & VHF Simplex

For complete info and rules visit: <http://www.13colonies.us/>

## HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

QSL's will be sent to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau quarterly on the following approximate dates

April 15th, June 15th, Sept 15th, and Jan 15th, 2025

Go to <https://hcra.org/dx-qsl/> for complete information

or Contact Paul, NF1G at [paulkelliher@comcast.net](mailto:paulkelliher@comcast.net)





## HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



### Next QSL Cards to be Sent to the Bureau

The next date to send QSL cards to the Bureau will be on or about June 15th. Have your cards ready to go and make arrangements to get them to Paul, NF1G at the June 7th meeting.

The submission form and instructions are within the link below. QSL cards can be dropped off at our regular meetings to Paul, NF1G, whose contact information is on the form link below.

To download the form go to: <https://hcra.org/files/DX%20QSL%20Submission%20Form.pdf>

### Field Day 2024 Volunteers Needed

Josué, KP4JLD, is your 2024 Field Day Chairman. He is planning a fantastic event, but he needs the help of club members to make it happen. If you can help in any way, please email Josué at the email address listed directly below. We have many new members who will enjoy this event so do it for them!

If you can help in anyway please contact Josué, KP4JLD at [tipoacrata@gmail.com](mailto:tipoacrata@gmail.com)

### Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

For the benefit of every HCRA member, Brown Baggers is a friendly lunch get-together that happens on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. It's held at the [Munich Haus Restaurant](#) in Chicopee Center at 12pm (noon), located on 13 Center St. Chicopee, MA, across from City Hall, or click the link above for directions. **Enjoy lunch, conversation, and camaraderie with your fellow hams!**

### Membership Memorial Page

All members have the opportunity to honor club members SK's on the new memorial page on [hcra.org](https://hcra.org). This can be done easily by sending the SK member's name and callsign along with any text, stories, and photos. Send them to our webmasters, Vanessa, W1IRL, or Alan, AB1XW at the email address's below:

**Vanessa, W1IRL**, at [webmaster@hcra.org](mailto:webmaster@hcra.org) or **Alan, AB1XW**, at [alan.dove@gmail.com](mailto:alan.dove@gmail.com)

**Please check-out the HCRA You Tube Channel and while you're there don't forget to click subscribe!**  
**I hope that many members are working on their short video's for the club's You Tube channel.**  
**For more info see the April issue of Zero Beat. The YouTube Channel link is below.**

### For Sale Items

There's a classified ad section that is for HCRA members. Members who have a need, something to sell, or even a trade.

Send item description and photo(s) to:  
[kd1ku@yahoo.com](mailto:kd1ku@yahoo.com)

### HCRA Social Media Links

Groups.io: <https://groups.io/g/hcra>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/HampdenCountyRA>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HampdenCountyRA>

## Local Nets & Happenings

**Sundays: 8:45 am** Western MA. VHF Emergency Net on 146.94, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

**Sundays: 9:15 am** Western MA. UHF Emergency Net on 443.200, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

**1st Monday: 6:45 pm**, MEMA RACES Drill, 146.49 Simplex and 3.930 LSB

**Mondays: 7 pm**, RACES Drill, 146.910, Mt. Greylock

**Mondays: 7 pm**, HCRA 10 Meter Net on 28.375, New topic every week. Have a topic to suggest? Contact [kd1ku@yahoo.com](mailto:kd1ku@yahoo.com)

**Tuesdays: 7:30 pm**, 146.94, PL 127.3 - Hampshire County Emergency Net

**Tuesdays: 8 pm**, ARES Emergency Net, on 146.985, PL 136.5

**Wednesdays: 7:30 pm**, MTARA Info Net on 146.94, PL 127.3

**Wednesdays**: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, Following Info Net

**Wednesdays**: N1RLX Simplex Net, Check-In's on 146.94 then QSY to 146.42 Simplex immediately following the swap net

**Wednesdays: 9 am**, FCARC Experimental Net, 28.354 MHz

**Thursdays: 8 pm**, FCARC Information Net, 146.985 - 136.5

## Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

- QST Magazine
  - Members-Only Web Services
  - Technical Information Service
  - Member Discounts
  - Outgoing QSL Service
  - Continuing Education
  - ARRL as an Advocate
  - Regulatory Information Branch
  - Public Relations for Amateur Radio
  - ARRL Field Organization
  - ARRL-sponsored contests
  - Operating Awards
  - Amateur Radio Emergency Service
  - Hamfests and Conventions
  - Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program
- <http://www.arrl.org/membership>



## Club Meetings and VE Sessions

**1st Friday of the month** at 7:30 pm HCRA Meeting.

In-Person meetings began in Sept. of 2022. Meetings start with a meet & greet at 7 pm followed by the regular meeting at 7:30pm sharp. <http://www.hcra.org/>

**2nd Monday of the month** at 7 pm, FCARC meeting.

1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls, MA. (airport). Social Hour 6-7 pm, meeting at 7 pm. <http://www.fcarc.org/>

**2nd Saturday prior to FCARC meeting.** 8 am Breakfast at

Denny's Pantry, 496 Bernardston Rd. Greenfield, MA.

Brad Councilman [bc@councilman.com](mailto:bc@councilman.com)

**3rd Friday of the month**, MTARA Meeting, 7 pm, Castle Of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA, 01020 <https://mtara.org/>

**4th Friday of the month**, The Western Mass VE Team (WMVET) VE sessions at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room beginning January 27th and every 4th Friday at 6pm to perform VE exams. E-mail Dave, W1FAB [wa1dc@yahoo.com](mailto:wa1dc@yahoo.com). Call or text 413-575-2950. Need directions? <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

**President** - Larry Krainson, W1AST  
[hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com)

**Vice-President** - Ez Moralez, W1AEZ  
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**Treasurer** - George Collins, KC1V  
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**Secretary** - Paul Kelliher, NF1G  
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**WB1Z trustee**, Vanessa, W1IRL  
[webmaster@hcra.org](mailto:webmaster@hcra.org)





**Here is your fabulous next  
issue of Zero Beat!**

*Our 76th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club*

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